(b) in rule 29, of the said rules, in clause (c), the word 'confectionery' shall be omitted.

(c) in rule 30 of the said rules, for the figures and words "Q. 2 grams per kilogram", the following figures and words shall be substituted, namely:—

"Q 1 gram per kilogram.' 4. In Appendix B' of the said rules.—

(1) in items A. 25.01, A,25.02 and A. 25.02.01, the words "permitted colour' wherever occuring shall be omitted.

[No. F. 15014|4|87-PH(F&N)]
Sd/-
SMT. VINEETA RAI,
Jt. Secy.

Loans taken by SBI New York under Bank Advances Scheme

*80. SHRI CHHOTUBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that State Bank of India, New York branch has taken short term loans amounting to 3 billion dollars under 'Bank Advances Scheme, to pay for imports into India; and

(b) if so, on what grounds SBI was allowed to raise such a large amount and whether it had the concurrence of Government?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) and (b) As a part of the trading operations of major canalising agencies, the State Bank of India has been authorised to extend Bankers Acceptance Facility of up to US $ 2.91 billion.

Special duty allowance to Government employees of North Eastern Region

294 SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have since sanctioned Special Duty Allowance to the Central Government employees of North Eastern Region in certain departments who have no transfer liability; and

(b) if so, whether the orders relating to Special Duty Allowance are being made applicable to all the Central Government employees regardless of transfer liability; if so, what are the details thereof and if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) and (b). Government orders provide for grant of Special (Duty) Allowance to Central Government civilian employees who have All India Transfer liability on their posting to North East Region. However, in a very few exceptional cases the condition of All India Transfer liability was relaxed in Public interest.

Settlement of claims of Refugees migrated to India from Bangladesh

295. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state

(a) whether Government are aware of the hardships of those refugees who had migrated to India in the wake of Bangladesh freedom struggle, leaving their properties in erstwhile East Pakistan, due to non-settlement of their claims in full; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU): (a) and (b) Ministry of Commerce only administers an *Ex-Gratia* Scheme, which permits relief to the extent of 25 per cent of the verified value of the claims of Indian nationals/companies who lost their properties as a result of Indo-Pak conflicts of 1965 and 1971. There is no provision for payment beyond 25 per cent of the verified value of the under the Scheme.